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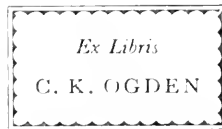
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10 May 1916

Sidney Lee

Shakespeare  
Tercentenary Commemoration,  
1616 : 1916.

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SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE.

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CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENTS OF THE XVIth & XVIIth CENTURIES  
PRESERVED IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,  
ILLUSTRATING SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE  
IN THE TOWN,

with appended lists of facsimiles belonging to the Trustees of  
contemporary Shakespearean documents which are preserved  
elsewhere.

*Compiled and arranged by* FRED<sup>K</sup>. C. WELLSTOOD, M.A.,  
*Secretary and Librarian, Shakespeare's Birthplace.*

*With a Preface by* SIR SIDNEY LEE, D. Litt., LL.D.,  
*Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Birthplace Trustees.*

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON :

EDWARD FOX & SON, PRINTERS, BRIDGE STREET.

— 1916. —

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Shakespeare  
Tercentenary Commemoration,  
1616 : 1916.

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*The illustrative comment is partly taken from Sir Sidney Lee's  
rewritten "Life of Shakespeare," 1915.*



## Preface.



THE exhibition of documents which the Trustees of Shakespeare's Birthplace have prepared by way of commemorating the Tercentenary of Shakespeare's death, has a well-defined aim. The intention is to illustrate graphically the strength of the materials out of which has been woven the accepted chronicle of the chief practical events of Shakespeare's life.

The main portion of the exhibited documents consists of thirty-nine original records of the 16th and 17th centuries, which are the property either of the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon or of the Shakespeare's Birthplace Trustees. The thanks of the Trustees are due to the Corporation for the opportunity which has been accorded them of bringing together the two sets of archives, which are invaluable complements of one another.

The thirty-nine documents which belong to the two Stratford repertories are fully described in this Catalogue. They present all the dominant phases of Shakespeare's career as a citizen of Stratford-upon-Avon. The first section introduces us to the dramatist's father, during his son's youth, in such capacities as borough-chamberlain (or municipal chancellor of the exchequer), as householder and landowner. The remaining sections furnish tangible proofs of Shakespeare's acquisition of a substantial estate in the town and neighbourhood, of his practical interest in municipal affairs, of his friendly intercourse with his fellow townsmen, of his part in local litigation, and lastly of the succession to his local property after his death of his elder daughter and of her only child, the poet's grand-daughter and his last direct descendant.

An Appendix to this Catalogue describes a further series of documents of cognate interest and importance, of which the Trustees possess carefully executed facsimiles, although the originals are preserved in repositories outside Stratford-upon-Avon. These facsimiles include many items of vital significance. Prominent among them are copies of Shakespeare's Will, the original of which is in Somerset House, and of three other documents bearing Shakespeare's autograph signature. The greater number of the originals of these facsimiles is housed in the Public Record Office. The Trustees believe that by extending their present survey to the documentary sources of Shakespeare's biography which exist outside Stratford-upon-Avon, they are efficiently serving the interests of Shakespearean scholarship.

Shakespeare's contemporaries first warned those who would interpret the poet and his writings aright of the duty of bringing both London and Stratford-upon-Avon equally within range of close study. Ben Jonson, who in his elegy prefixed to the First Folio called Shakespeare "sweet swan of Avon," associated the dramatist in succeeding lines no less closely with the River Thames. The ties which bound Shakespeare to the borough of his birth steadily strengthened as his years increased, yet the mighty work which makes him memorable was chiefly done in London. To reach a full conception of his career it is needful to co-ordinate all extant evidence of his experiences, alike in his native place and in the capital city of the country.

The most imposing of the extant biographic records—the dramatist's will, which was drafted by a fellow townsman, Francis Collins, a few months before his death—attests the evenness with which Shakespeare divided to the last his interest between his Stratford friends and the London associates to whom the achievements of his genius chiefly owed their perpetuation. To seven men Shakespeare bequeathed by his will 26 shillings and eightpence apiece wherewith to buy memorial rings. Four of these legatees were well-to-do inhabitants of Stratford, with whom the testator

had enjoyed a life-long intimacy. The remaining three were his "fellows" or colleagues of the London theatre—Richard Burbage, the greatest actor of the day, who had created most of the dramatist's great tragic rôles, with John Heminges and Henry Condell, the efficient managers of the dramatist's company of actors, who within a few years laid the world under a lasting debt by collecting Shakespeare's plays for publication in the First Folio of 1623. The terms of the seven bequests of friendship link the dramatist's activities at Stratford and London in indissoluble bonds.

With the testamentary commemorations of his "fellows" in his art, one should scan, too, line by line the inscription on the monument fixed to the north wall of the chancel of Stratford Church, where Shakespeare the citizen of the town is acclaimed as the greatest man of letters of his epoch.

The exhibited documents which deal mainly with the business aspects of Shakespeare's life show a practical sagacity which was capable of detaching life's matter-of-fact interests from the ubiquitous workings of supreme imaginative genius. A glance at Shakespeare's will or at his epitaph brings the records of practical experience which are catalogued here into their just relation with Shakespeare's poetic and dramatic titles to immortal fame.

The pictorial illustrations which greatly enhance the usefulness and attractiveness of this little volume have been reproduced from photographs taken by Mr. L. C. Keighley-Peach, of Quinton.

The documents have been arranged and catalogued by Mr. Frederick C. Wellstood, M.A., Secretary and Librarian to the Trustees, and Deputy-keeper of the Records of the Borough.

SIDNEY LEE.



## 1. Concerning Shakespeare's Parents.

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### I. THE ACCOUNTS OF JOHN SHAKESPEARE, CHAMBERLAIN OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

"Thaccomt of John Tayler & John Shakspeyr, chamburlens, made the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day of January in the v<sup>th</sup> yere of the reigne of [our] souereigne lady Elyzabethe by the grace of God of Englund, Fraunce and Ireland Quene, defendor of the Feithe, &c., for one wholl yere endynge at the feest of Sent Mychaell tharchaungell now last past," (1562/3).

Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, after having served several minor municipal offices, was, in 1561 elected one of the two chamberlains of the borough, an office of financial responsibility which he held for two years, rendering a second account on 10 Jan. 1563/4.

This account is for the year ending at Michaelmas 1562 and is of great interest as being the earliest chamberlain's account now in the possession of the Corporation.

Amongst the entries occur the following :—

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| "Item payd to Hughe Carpenter for hangyng<br>the gret bell & makyng the whell . . . | xx <sup>d</sup> .                     |
| Item payd rent for the vicars hous . . .  | xxiiij <sup>s</sup> .                 |
| Item payd to y <sup>e</sup> Scollmaster . . .                                       | xvj <sup>l</sup> .                    |
| Item payd to the almysfolke . . .   | xx <sup>li</sup> .xvj <sup>s</sup> ." |

On the verso are two marks, which may be those of John Shakespeare and Taylor.

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. iii, 21*).

## 2. JOHN SHAKESPEARE AND THE PLAYERS.

"The Accompte of m<sup>r</sup>. Robert Salusburye & John Sadler, Chamberlens taken the xxvij<sup>th</sup> day of Januarye in the twelveth yere of the Reigne of oure souereygne Ladye Elizabeth . . . frome the feast of sancte Mychaell anno 1568 vnto the feast of sancte Mychaell last past 1569."

This chamberlain's account for the year 1568-9 covers the period during which John Shakespeare served the highest office in the gift of the Corporation, that of Bailiff, and records that in this year the Corporation for the first time entertained actors at Stratford.

The entries run :—

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| "Item payd to the Quenes Pleyers . . .      | ix <sup>s</sup> .   |
| Item to the Erle of Worcesters Pleers . . . | xij <sup>d</sup> ." |

And it is clear that each company received from John Shakespeare an official welcome and gave a performance in the Guildhall before the Council.

(*Corp. Council Bk. A. 25*).

3. JOHN SHAKESPEARE'S NEIGHBOURS IN  
HENLEY STREET, 1573.

Conveyance by William Wedgewood, of Stretford-uppon-Avon, yeoman, to Richard Hornebe, of the same, smith, of a parcel of ground "in the backe syde of the tenement of the said Richard Hornbe in a streete called Henly Strete," extending to the "Quene's highwaye called the Gillpittes." Dated 28 Aug. 15 Eliz. (1573). The seal used upon this deed bears the initials "W.S." entwined with a true lover's knot, and is almost identical with the impression from Shakespeare's signet ring. Witnesses :—Walter Roche (ex-schoolmaster of Stratford Grammar-school), John Shaxbere, the dramatist's father, Roger Grene, John Ange.

See No. 4 *infra*. Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 232.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 88).

5 September - 1614.  
Summarized from the original in the office of the Surveyor and Master of the Ordnance.

1<sup>st</sup> m. Eastward. 4. yard land. no stone, nor ground beyond the gate but the  
nor ground in Eastfield, nor wine in the gate but beyond the gate nor  
now in the field beyond the gate.

2<sup>nd</sup> m. Eastward. 1. yard land. 1. yard land, no land in Eastfield. 1. yard land  
but 1. C. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.

3<sup>rd</sup> m. Eastward. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.  
1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.

4<sup>th</sup> m. Eastward. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.  
1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.

5<sup>th</sup> m. Eastward. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.  
1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land. 1. yard land.





4. JOHN SHAKESPEARE'S NEIGHBOURS IN  
HENLEY STREET, 1575.

Conveyance by William Wedgewood of Stretford vppon Avon, tailer, to Edward Willies of Kyngsnorton, yeoman, for fforty fower poundes, of towe Tenementes in Stretford aforesaid in a street there commonly called Henley streete, in the occupatyon of the sayd William Wedgewood, Betwyne the tenement of Richard Hornebe [blacksmith] of the East part, And the tenement of John Shakesper, yeoman, of the west parte, and the streete of the sowthe parte, and the quenes high way called the Gillpitts of the northe parte. Dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1575.

Signed :—Wylliam Wedgwod. "Wytresses hereof John Shakesper, Edward Affyeld, Humfry Affyeld, Walter Roche, Bartholomw Kytle, Richard Horneby."

(*See No. 3 supra*).

At the date of this deed the dramatist was eleven years old, and living in his father's house which stood next to that of William Wedgewood, the tailor. Richard Horneby's forge and smithy adjoined Wedgewood's shop. Horneby's premises now form the Birthplace Ticket Office.

Horneby's forge and smithy may well have suggested to the dramatist this vivid picture:

I saw a *smith* stand with his hammer, thus,  
The whilst his iron did on the anvil cool,  
With open mouth swallowing a *tailor's* news;  
Who, with his shears and measure in his hand,  
Standing on slippers, which his nimble haste  
Had falsely thrust upon contrary feet,  
Told of a many thousand warlike French  
That were embattailed and rank'd in Kent:  
Another lean unwash'd artificer  
Cuts off his tale and talks of Arthur's death.

*King John, iv, 2, 193-202.*

(*Birthplace Mus., No. 84*).

5. THE SNITTERFIELD PROPERTY OF SHAKESPEARE'S  
PARENTS, 1579.

Deed of sale by John Shackspere, of Stratford-upon-Avon, yeoman, and Mary his wife, to Robert Webbe, of Snitterfylde, yeoman, for £4, of their moiety of two messuages with appurtenances in Snitterfylde.

Dated 15 Oct. 21 Eliz. (1579). Signed by marks. (*Plate VI, a, b*). With seals. John Shakespeare's seal bears the initials "I.S.", and his wife's seal has the design of a horse galloping. Witnesses:—Nycholas Knoolles, Vicar of Auston (Alveston), Will. Maydes, and Anth. Osbaston.

With bond from the same to the same in 20 marks, for the due performance of the covenants in above conveyance. Date, witnesses, etc., as above.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 179 - 182.*

*(Birthplace Mus., 110).*

6. PROOF THAT SHAKESPEARE'S FATHER RESIDED IN THE  
HOUSE NOW KNOWN AS THE POET'S BIRTHPLACE.

Deed of sale by John Shakespere of Stratford-upon-Avon, yeoman, to George Badger, of the same, draper, for 50<sup>s</sup>, of a toft and parcel of land in Stratford, in Henlye Strete, between his own free tenement on the east, and the said George Badger's free tenement on the west, being in width  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard and extending in length 28 yards from Henlye Street on the south to the highway called Gyllpyttes on the north, and now being in the tenure of the said John Shakespere. Dated 26 January, 39 Eliz. (1596 - 7).

Signed with John Shakespeare's mark. Seal lost.

Sealed, delivered and seisin given on the same day, in the presence of Richard Lane, Hen: Walker, Will. Courte, "scriptor," Tho: Loche, and Tho. Beseley. In Latin.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 13.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 111).*

## 2. Shakespeare's Stratford Estate.

---

### 7. A FINE ASSURING NEW PLACE TO SHAKESPEARE, 1597.

Fine, Easter Term, 39 Eliz. (1597), whereby William Underhill, gent., assures to William Shakespeare a messuage (i.e. New Place), two barns and two gardens with appurtenances in Stratford-upon-Avon for £60.

Seal "ad Brevia in Banco." In Latin.

Recorded, 4 May, A<sup>o</sup> 39 (1597).

A curious incident postponed Shakespeare's legal possession of this property. The vendor, William Underhill, died suddenly of poison at Fillongley, near Coventry, and the legal transfer of New Place to the dramatist was left at the time incomplete. Underhill's eldest son Fulk died a minor at Warwick next year, and after his death he was proved to have murdered his father. The family estates were thus in jeopardy of forfeiture, but they were suffered to pass to "the felon's" next brother Hercules, who on coming of age in May 1602 completed in a new deed the transfer of New Place to Shakespeare.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 104-7.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 112).*

S. THE ORIGINAL CONVEYANCE OF 107 ACRES OF LAND IN OLD STRATFORD FROM WILLIAM AND JOHN COMBE TO SHAKESPEARE, 1ST MAY, 1602.

Deed of Feoffment, dated the "ffirste daie of Maye in the ffowre and ffortieth yeare of the raigne of our Soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth" (1602) from William Combe of Warrwicke, Esquier, and John Combe of Olde Stratford, gentleman, to William Shakespeare of Stretford-vppon-Avon, gentleman, for and in Consideracion of the somme of Three Hundred and Twentie Poundes of Currant Englishe money, of ffowre yarde lande of errable lande within the parrishe or towne of Olde Stretford Conteyninge by estimacion One Hundred and Seaven acres. And also all the Common of Pasture for Sheepe horse kyne or other Cattle in the fieldes of Olde Stretford aforesaide to the said ffowre yarde lande belonginge—now or late in the seuerall tenures or occupacions of Thomas Hiccoxe and Lewis Hiccoxe.

Endorsed :—Sealed and delivered to Gilbert Shakespere to the use of the within named William Shakespere in the presence of Anthony Nasshe, Jhon Nashe, William Sheldon, Humfrey Maynwaringe, Rychard Mason.

This transaction brought the dramatist into close relation with men of wealth and local influence; the vendors, William Combe and his nephew John Combe, were members of a family which had settled at Stratford some sixty years before, and owned much land near the town and elsewhere.

William Combe had entered the Middle Temple on 19 Oct., 1571, and long retained a set of chambers there; he acquired a large property in Warwick, and also owned the important estate of Alvechurch Park in Worcestershire.

His nephew, John Combe, the joint vendor of the property was a wealthy Stratford resident, with whom Shakespeare afterwards enjoyed much personal intercourse.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 17 - 19.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 158).*





9. SURRENDER OF A COTTAGE IN CHAPEL LANE  
TO SHAKESPEARE, 1602.

Extract from the Latin Court-roll of the Manor of Rowington, co. Warwick, recording that at a View of frank-pledge with the court-baron of Anne, Countess of Warwick, held 28 Sept. 44 Eliz. (1602), before Henry Michell, Deputy for John Huggeford, seneschal, Walter Getley, one of the customary tenants of the Manor, by Thomas Tibbottes, jun<sup>r</sup>, his attorney, surrendered a cottage and a quarter of an acre of land in Stratford-upon-Avon, in Walkers Street alias Dead Lane (now Chapel Lane) to the use of William Shakespere and his heirs for ever.

The Manor of Rowington, of which numerous other Shakespeares were tenants, had been granted by Queen Elizabeth to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Leicester's brother, who held it until his death in 1589. The Earl's widow and third wife, Anne Countess of Warwick, remained Lady of the Manor until her death on 9 Feb. 1603/4, when the property fully reverted to the Crown. The Countess of Warwick was thus Lady of the Manor when Shakespeare purchased the property in Chapel Lane.

It appears from the manorial roll that Shakespeare did not attend the manorial court held at Rowington on the day fixed for the transfer of the property, and that it was consequently stipulated then that the estate should remain in the hands of the Lady of the Manor until the dramatist completed the purchase in person, which he did at a later date. The cottage, which has since disappeared, adjoined the garden of Shakespeare's residence, New Place, and was devised by the poet to his daughter Susanna as "one copyhold tenement &c. holden of the Mannor of Rowington".

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 19.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 113).*

10. CONVEYANCE TO SHAKESPEARE, IN 1605, OF THE MOIETY OF A LEASE, GRANTED IN 1544, OF THE TITHES OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, OLD STRATFORD, WELCOMBE, AND BISHOPTON.

Assignment by Ralph Hubande, of Ippesley co. Warw., Esq., to William Shakespeare, of Stratford-upon-Avon, gent., for £440, of a moiety of the tithes of Stratford, Old Stratford, Welcombe, and Bishopton, co. Warw., for the residue of a lease for 92 years from the Warden and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Stratford, dated 7 July, 36 Hen. VIII (1544), paying yearly to the Bailiff and Burgesses £17 and to John Barker £5. Dated 24 July, 3 James I. (1605). Signed—"Raffe Huband."

Witnesses :—William Huband, Anth. Nashe, Fra. Collyns.

Although loosely called a "moiety," Shakespeare's share of "the tithes"—a miscellaneous property including houses, cottages and fields—scarcely amounted to a quarter. But it far exceeded in value any of the other shares save one, and it was estimated to yield £60 a year.

But the shares were heavily encumbered, and according to the harsh terms of the sub-leases, any failure on the part of the sub-lessees to pay Barker, the original lessee, a prescribed contribution forfeited to him the entire property. This refusal of his fellow-shareholders to acknowledge the full extent of their liability to Barker constantly imperilled all the poet's rights.

If he wished to retain his interest in the event of the other's default, he was required to pay their debts. It thus became necessary for Shakespeare to determine the exact responsibilities of all the tithe-owners, and some five years later he entered a suit in the Court of Chancery for that purpose (*See No. 30*).

This document is in the handwriting of Francis Collins, the lawyer who drafted the poet's will.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 19-24.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 158).*



11. A bond for £80 from Ralph Huband of Ippesley, co. Warwick, to William Shakespear, gent., of Stratford-upon-Avon, for the due performance of the covenants in the preceding document.

Dated 24 July, 3 James I. (1605). Signed :—Raff Huband. Witnesses :—Willm. Huband, Anthony Nasshe, Fra. Collyns.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 25.*

*(Corp. Misc. Doc. ii. 3).*

### 3. Shakespeare and the Welcombe Enclosures.

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#### 12. SHAKESPEARE'S ESTATES AT WELCOMBE.

"The particulers of Olde Stratforde; also Landes of ffreeholders & where they lye."

The latter part of this document, which is in the handwriting of Thomas Greene, the town-clerk of Stratford, is dated 5 Sept., 1614, and gives an interesting account of Shakespeare's lands in the common fields at Welcombe.

"Auncient ffreeholders in the ffieldes of Oldstratford and Welcombe.

M<sup>r</sup> Shakspeare. 4 yard land [*i.e.* roughly 127 acres] noe common nor grownd beyond Gospell bushe, noe grownd in Sandfield, nor none in Slowe hill field beyond Bishopton nor none in the enclosure beyond Bishopton." (*Plate I*).

The list contains the names of the persons whose interests were likely to be affected by the intended enclosure of the common fields by William and Thomas Combe. (*See Nos. 13 - 14 infra*).

*(Corp. Misc. Doc. i. 94).*

## 13. SHAKESPEARE'S ESTATES AT WELCOMBE.

"Articles of agreement indented made betweene Willm. Shackespeare of Stretford in the County of Warwicke, gent., on the one partye & Willm. Replingham of Greeete Harborowe in the countie of Warwicke gent, on the other partie", whereby the latter undertakes to "satisfie, content & make recompence vnto him the said Willm. Shackespeare or his assignes for all such losse, detriment & hinderance as he the said Willm. Shackespeare, his heires and assignes and one Thomas Greene, gent., shall or maye be thought . . . to sustayne or incurre for or in respecte of the increasinge of the yearelie value of the Tythes."

Dated 28 Oct. 1614.

Witnesses :—Tho. Lucas, Jo. Rogers, Anthonie Nasshe, Mich. Olney.

Endorsed :—"Coppie of the articles w<sup>th</sup> m<sup>r</sup>. Shakspeare."

In the early autumn of 1614 William and Thomas Combe, nephews of John Combe deceased, announced their resolve to enclose the borough's common land on the outskirts of the town in the direction of Welcombe, Bishopton and Old Stratford, hamlets about which some of the Combe property lay. The enclosure also menaced the large estate which, by the disposition of King Edward VI., owed tithes to the Corporation, and after the expiration of a 92 years' lease was to become in 1636 the absolute property of the town. Shakespeare, as a sub-lessee of a moiety of the tithes was likely to suffer by the threatened enclosure, but at the outset William Combe prudently approached him through his agent Replingham, and on 28 Oct. 1614, the above "articles" were drafted indemnifying the dramatist and his heirs against any loss from the scheme of the enclosure. The terms of the agreement were also devised to cover the private interests of Thomas Greene, who, in his capacity of joint tithe-owner, was in much the same position as the dramatist.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 36.*

*(Wheler Papers i, 64).*

Chaple House  
wales.

3. *Francis Emrys* *Jun.* *iii* quarters.  
5. *John Doe.* *vii* quarters.

17. 2. *Mr Thomas Dyson.* *vii* quarters.

3. *Mr Thomas Warbur.* *iii* quarters.

5. *Mr John Lare.* *v* quarters.

6. *Mr Whitfield.* *vi* quarters.

6. *Hughes Chyng.* *vi* quarters.

6. *Thomas Wadley.* *vi* quarters.  
*Wadley* *i* quarter.

1. *John Rogers.* *vii*.

8. *Mr Emmette.* *viii* quarters.

11. *Mr Aspinall.* *about* *vi* quarters.

10. *Mr Charles.* *v* quarters.

7. *Julian Spence.* *vii* quarters.

Hig House  
wales.

1. 2. *John Emrys* *Jun.* *vii* quarters.

3. *Emrys* *Jun.* *iii* quarters.  
*Mr Lare.* *vi* quarters.

11. *Francis Wadley.* *vi* quarters.  
*one* quarter. *Wadley*

3. *Thomas Wadley.* *iii* quarters.

14. *Mr Dymond.* *iii* quarters.  
*Wadley* *vii* quarters.

Hig  
wales



14. THE DIARY OF THOMAS GREENE, TOWN-CLERK OF  
STRATFORD, 1614 - 15.

It is mainly to this diary of Thomas Greene, the town-clerk of Stratford-upon-Avon, that we are indebted for our knowledge of the events which took place during the attempt of the Combes to enclose the common fields at Welcombe. On Nov. 12, 1614, the Town Council resolved that "all lawful meanes shalbe used to prevent the enclosing that is pretended of part of the old town field," and Greene, realising that the question was becoming acute, jotted down these "Mems. about the Inclosure," which tell us something of Shakespeare's position in the matter.

On 12 Nov., 1614, the town-clerk had gone to London to present a petition from the Corporation to the Privy Council; four days later Shakespeare himself reached the metropolis and within a few hours received a visit from Greene who discussed the matter of the intended enclosure with him. The diary contains the following account of the interview with Shakespeare:—'Jovis 17 No: [1614]. My Cosen Shakspeare commyng yesterday to towne, I went to see him howe he did; he told me that they assured him they ment to inclose noe further then to gospell bushe, & so vpp straight (leavyng out part of the dyngles to the ffield) to the gate in Clopton hedge & take in Salisburys peece; and that they meane in Aprill to survey the Land, & then to gyve satisfaccion & not before, & he & Mr. Hall say they think there will be nothyng done at all.'

Next month the Council wrote to Shakespeare, who was still in London, appealing to him to support the town in protesting against the enclosures.

'23 Dec. 1614. A Hall. Letters written, one to M<sup>r</sup>. Maneryng, another to M<sup>r</sup>. Shakspeare, with almost all the companyes hands to either: I also wrytte of myself to my Cousen Shakespeare the coppyes of all our oathes made then, also a note of the inconveniences wold grow by the Inclosure'.

Replingham, the agent of the Combes, drew up "articles" protecting Shakespeare against any injury from the proposed enclosures, and, at Shakespeare's suggestion, Greene's interest was similarly guarded.

'9 Ja: [1614/15] M<sup>r</sup>. Replynham 28th October, articulated with M<sup>r</sup>. Shakspeare, and then I was put in by T. Lucas.' (*See No. 13 supra*).

'On Wednesday, being the 11<sup>th</sup> day [of January] At night M<sup>r</sup>. Replingham supped with me, and M<sup>r</sup>. W. Barnes was to beare him company, where he assured me before M<sup>r</sup>. Barnes that I should be well dealt withal, confessyng former promisses by himself, M<sup>r</sup>. Manyryng, and his agreement for me with my Cosen Shakspeare'.

Greene reports a remark made by Shakespeare in the course of the controversy, 'Sept. 1615 W. Shakspeares tellyng J. Greene that I wasnot able to bearetheencloseinge of Welcombe.' (*Plate II*). The wording of this entry implies that Shakespeare told J[ohn] Greene that the writer of the diary, Thomas Greene was not able to bear the enclosure. Those who would wish to regard Shakespeare as a champion of popular rights have endeavoured to interpret the "I" in "I was not able" as "he." Were that the correct reading, Shakespeare would be rightly credited with telling John Greene that *he* disliked the enclosure; but palæographers only recognise the reading "I."

The struggle between the Combes and the Corporation was long and bitter, and it was not until Feb. 1618/9 that the town authorities triumphed and justified Shakespeare's prediction that "nothing would be done."

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. xiii, 27 et seq.*)

## 4. Shakespeare and Stratford Affairs.

### 15. THE POET'S SUPPLY OF CORN AND MALT.

"The noate of corne & malte Taken the iiij<sup>th</sup> of ffebruarij 1597[/8] in the xl<sup>th</sup> yeare of the raigne of o<sup>r</sup> moste gracious Sovereigne Ladie Queen Elizabethe etc." (*Plate III*).

Early in 1598 the "dearness of corn" at Stratford was reported to be "beyond all other counties." The Town Council sought to meet the difficulty by ordering this inventory of the corn and malt in the borough.

In the list of "townesmen" in the "Chapplestreet warde" Shakespeare is reported to have owned the very substantial quantity of ten quarters or eighty bushels of corn and malt. The following names occur in the list for that ward, only two of them being credited with larger holdings than Shakespeare.

|          |                              |                    |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| " 17½.   | Mr. Thomas Dyxon             | xvij quarters di.  |
| 3.       | Mr. Thomas Barbor            | iiij quarters      |
| 1. 2str. | Jhon Rogers [vicar]          | x strikes          |
| 11.      | Mr. Aspinall [schoolmaster]  | aboute xj quarters |
| 10.      | W <sup>m</sup> . Shackespere | x quarters         |
| 7.       | Julij Shawe                  | vij quarters."     |

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 58.*

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. i, 106*).

### 16. SHAKESPEARE'S SALE OF STONE TO THE CORPORATION.

"The accountt of Wyllyam Wyatt Chamberlen in this yeare 1598," containing the entry:—"Pd to m<sup>r</sup> shaxspere for a lod of ston - - x<sup>d</sup>."

In this year Shakespeare was busy with the repair of New Place which he had bought in the previous year, and the load of stone sold by him to the Corporation was most probably taken from the building.

(*Corp. Chamb. Accts. 1598*).

17. SHAKESPEARE'S RELATIONS WITH HIS FELLOW-TOWNSMEN,  
ABRAHAM STURLEY AND RICHARD QUINEY.

A letter, dated 24 Jan. 1597/8, from Abraham Sturley to his brother-in-law, Richard Quiney who had gone to London as the agent of the impoverished Corporation of Stratford in order to try and obtain exemption from the payment of the subsidies levied in 1597. Sturley writes :—"Most loving & belovedd in y<sup>e</sup> L<sup>d</sup> in plaine englishe we remember v [you] in the L<sup>d</sup>, & O<sup>r</sup> selves vnto v [you]. I would write nothinge unto v [you] nowe but come home. I praj G<sup>d</sup> send v [you] comfortabli home. This is one speciall remembrance ffrom vr ffathers motion. Itt semeth bj him that O<sup>r</sup> countriman m<sup>r</sup> Shaksper, is willinge to disburse some money vpon some od yardeland or other att Shottery, or neare about vs he thinketh it a verj fitt patterne to move him to deale in the matter of O<sup>r</sup> Tithes. By the instrvccions v [you] can geve him theareof and by the frendes he can make therefore we think it a faire marke for him to shoote att, & not vnpossible to hitt. It obtained would advance him in deede & would do vs much good."

As far as the land at Shottery was concerned, Sturley's suggestion was without effect, but in the matter of the tithes Shakespeare took very practical steps. After an interval of seven years he completed the purchase of a moiety of the tithes from Ralph Huband for £440. (*See No. 10 supra*).

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 57-58.*

*(Corp. Misc. Doc. i, 135).*

18. SHAKESPEARE'S RELATIONS WITH HIS FELLOW-TOWNSMEN.

A long letter dated 4 Nov., 1598, from Abraham Sturley to "His most lovinge brother, m<sup>r</sup> Richard Quinei att the Bell in Carter Lane att London", also dealing with the attempt to gain exemption for Stratford from the payment of the subsidies. In this letter Sturley expresses his anxiety to hear that Shakespeare would



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procure them money, not only for the public matter on which Quiney was engaged, but probably also for the furtherance of some private business which the latter was transacting in London on behalf of himself and Sturley. This may refer to the loan for which Quiney had written to Shakespeare only ten days earlier. (*See No. 19*).

"All health, happines of suites and wellfare, be multiplied vnto v and vr labours in God our Father bi Cr O<sup>r</sup> Lord. Ur letter of the 25. of October came to mi handes the laste of the same att night per Grenwai, which imported a stai of suites bi Sr. Ed. Gr. advise, vntill &c., and y<sup>t</sup> onli v should followe on for tax and sub. presentli, and allso vr travell & hinderance of answere therein bi ur longe travell and thaffaires of the Courte; and that o<sup>r</sup> countriman Mr. Wm. Shak. would procure vs monei. which I will like of as I shall heare when, and wheare, and howe; and I prai let not go that occasion if it mai sorte to ani indifferent condicions. Allso y<sup>t</sup> if monei might be had for 30 or 40<sup>li</sup>, a lease, &c., might be procured."

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 59 - 60.*

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. i. 136*).

19. A LETTER ADDRESSED TO SHAKESPEARE BY A STRATFORD FRIEND.

Original letter from Richard Quiney to his "Loveinge good Frend and contreyman mr. Wm. Shackespere," requesting a loan of £30 wherewith to discharge pressing private debts; dated "From the Bell in Carter Lane (London) the 25th October, 1598." (*Plate IV*).

The writer, Richard Quiney, a close friend of the dramatist, was twice chosen Bailiff of Stratford, in 1592 and 1601; he died during his second term of office. His elder son, Thomas, married the poet's younger daughter, Judith, on 10 February, 1616.

*Literal transcript:—*

"Loveinge Contreyman I am bolde of yo<sup>w</sup> as of a ffrende, craveinge yo<sup>wr</sup> helpe w<sup>h</sup> xxx<sup>ll</sup> vppon m<sup>r</sup> Bushells and my securytee or m<sup>r</sup> Myttons w<sup>h</sup> me m<sup>r</sup> Roswell is nott come to London as yeate & I have especiall cawse, yo<sup>w</sup> shall ffrende me muche in helpeinge me out of all the debettes I owe in London I thanke god & muche quiet my mynde w<sup>h</sup> wolde nott be indebted I am nowe towards the Cowrte in hope of answer for the dispatche of my Buysenes yo<sup>w</sup> shall nether loose creddytt nor monney by me the Lorde wyllinge & nowe butt perswade yo<sup>wr</sup>selfe soe I hope & yo<sup>w</sup> shall nott need to feare butt w<sup>h</sup> all hartie thanckefullenes I wyll holde my tyme & content yo<sup>wr</sup> ffrende & yf we Bargaine farther yo<sup>w</sup> shalbe the paie m<sup>r</sup> yo<sup>wr</sup>self, my tyme biddes me hasten to an ende & soe I committ thys [to] yo<sup>wr</sup> care & hope of yo<sup>wr</sup> helpe I feare I shall nott be backe thys night ffrom the Cowrte, - haste, the Lorde be w<sup>h</sup> yo<sup>w</sup> & w<sup>h</sup> vs all amen. ffrom the Bell in Carter Lane the 25 octobr 1598.

yo<sup>wr</sup> in all kyndenes

Ryc. Quayney.

Superscription:—To my Loveinge good ffrend

& contreymann m<sup>r</sup> w<sup>m</sup>

Shackespere dlr. thees.

Amorial seal:—On a bend three trefoils slipped.

This document enjoys the distinction of being the only surviving letter which was delivered into Shakespeare's hand. Quayney, Shakespeare's would be debtor, informed his family at Stratford of his application for money and he soon afterwards received the message contained in the following letter (No. 20) from his father Adrian.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. i, pp. 150-1.*

*(Birthplace Mus. No. 318).*

## 20. SHAKESPEARE'S RELATIONS WITH HIS FELLOW-TOWNSMEN.

An undated letter from Adrian Quayney 'to my lovinge sonne Richard Quayney at the Belle in Carter Layne in London' probably written in Nov., 1598. (*See No. 19 supra*).

" . . . Yff yow bargaen w<sup>t</sup> w<sup>m</sup>. Sha . . . or receve money there, or brynge y<sup>r</sup> money home yow maye see howe knite stockynges be sold ; ther ys gret bying of them at Evysshorne " . . .

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' " Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 58-59.*

*Corp. Misc. Doc. i. 131.*

## 21. SHAKESPEARE AND THE STRATFORD HIGHWAYS.

A list of contributions " Colected towardses the Charge of prosecutyng the Bill in parliam<sup>t</sup> for the better Repayre of the highe waies and amendinge diuers defectes in the Statutes alredy made". Dated " Wednesdaye the xj<sup>th</sup> of September, 1611 ". (*Plate I*).

In 1611 the chief townsmen of Stratford were anxious to obtain an amendment of existing statutes for the repair of the highways. A fund was collected for the purpose of 'prosecuting' an amending bill in Parliament. The list of contributors' names includes that of 'm<sup>r</sup>. William Shackspere' written in the margin as though it was added after the list was first drawn up. The dramatist was probably absent from Stratford when the movement was set on foot, and gave it his support on his return to the town after a London visit.

The seventy-one names include all the best known citizens, e.g., 'Thomas Greene, Esquire,' Abraham Sturley, Henry Walker, Julius Shawe, John Combes, William Combes, Mrs. Quynye, John Sadler. Only in the case of Thomas Greene, the town-clerk, is the amount of the contribution specified ; he subscribed 'ij<sup>s</sup>. vjd.'

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. i. 4*).

## 5. The Poet's Litigation.

### 22. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ROGERS.

The declaration of William Shexpere in an action against Philip Rogers in the Stratford Court of Record, to recover 35s. 10d. the balance of 41s. 10d. due for 20 bushels of malt, etc.

In July, 1604, Shakespeare sued for debt in the local court Philip Rogers, the apothecary of the town, to whom the poet's servants had delivered at fortnightly intervals between March 27 and May 30, 1604, twenty pecks or five bushels of malt, in varying small quantities, for domestic use. The supply was valued at £1 19s. 10d. On June 25 the apothecary, who was usually in pecuniary difficulties, borrowed 2s. of Shakespeare's household. Later in the summer he repaid 6s. and in the Michaelmas term the dramatist sued him for the balance of the account £1 15s. 10d. The Latin statement of claim was filed by Shakespeare's attorney, William Tetherton. There is no clue to any later stage of the suit, at the hearing of which Shakespeare was disabled by contemporary procedure from giving evidence on his own behalf.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 77-78.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 114).*

### 23. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

A precept to the serjeants at mace to take, &c., John Addenbrooke to answer William Shackspeare, gentleman, in a plea of debt; witnessed by Henry Walker, gentleman, bailiff, 17 Aug. 6 James I, (1608).

During 1608 and 1609 Shakespeare was at law with another fellow-townsmen, John Addenbrooke. On 15 Feb., 1609, the dramatist, who seems to have been legally represented on this occasion by his kinsman, Thomas Greene, obtained judgment from a jury against Addenbrooke for the payment of £6, with £1 5s. 0d. costs, but Addenbrooke left the town, and the triumph proved barren. Shakespeare avenged himself by proceeding against Thomas Horneby, who had acted as the absconding debtor's bail (*See No. 29*). Horneby had succeeded his father, Richard Horneby, on his death in 1606, as a master blacksmith in Henley Street, and was one of the smaller sharers in the tithes. The family forge lay near Shakespeare's Birthplace (*See Nos. 3-4*), and in this last prosecution plaintiff and defendant had been playmates in childhood.

Wednesday - 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (Sept 1761)

Delivered towards the expense of the printing of the Statute already made in the year 1760 & the Statute already made in the year 1761

1<sup>st</sup> of m<sup>r</sup> James Smith gent  
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This and the following six documents bear on the suit; *all are printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., vol. ii, pp. 78-80.*

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. v, 139*).

24. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

A precept to the serjeant at mace to have the bodies of the jurors whose names are recorded in a suit between William Shackspeare, gentleman, complainant, and John Addenbrooke, defendant.

Witnessed by Francis Smyth, jun., bailiff, 21 Dec., 6 James I (1608).

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. v, 127a*).

25. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

The names of the twenty-four jurors in the action of William Shakespere, gent., against John Addenbroke in a plea of debt. Among the names are those of Philip Greene, Robert Wilson, Thomas Kerbye, Richard Collins and Robert Cawdry.

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. v, 127b*).

26. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

A precept for a *distringas* of jurors in the suit of William Shackspeare, plaintiff, and John Addenbroke defendant. Witnessed by Francis Smyth jun., bailiff, 15 Feb., 6 James I (1608/9).

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. v, 115*).

27. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

The names of the twenty-four jurors, twelve of whom are sworn, in the suit between William Shackspere, gent., and John Addenbrooke. The jury were the same as in No. 25 *supra*.

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. v, 116*).

28. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

An order of the Court of Record of Stratford-upon-Avon to the serjeants at Mace to produce John Addenbrooke before the Bailiff at the next Court, to satisfy William Shackspeare, gent., for a debt of £6 recovered against him with 24<sup>s</sup> costs.

Witnessed by Francis Smyth, jun., Bailiff. Dated 15 March, 6 Jas. I (1608/9). Endorsed with return by F. Boyce, serjeant, that the said John Addenbrooke had not been found within the liberty of the Borough.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 116).

29. SHAKESPEARE *versus* ADDENBROKE.

An order of the Court of Record to summon Thomas Horneby, as surety for John Addenbrooke, to show cause why he should not be answerable to Will: Shackspeare for the debt and costs of John Addenbrooke. Witnessed by Francis Smyth, jun., Bailiff. Dated 7 June, 7 James I (1609). (*See note on No. 23*).

(*Birthplace Mus.* No. 117).

## 30. SHAKESPEARE AND THE TITHES, 1610.

Draft of a Bill of complaint in Chancery of Richard Lane of Awston (Alveston), esq., Thomas Greene, of Stratford-upon-Avon, esq., and William Shackspeare, of Stratford-upon-Avon, gentleman, against Lord Carew and others, to compel them to pay their due share of a reserved rent for the tithes of Stratford and to determine the exact responsibilities of all the tithe-owners. William Combe was one of the defendants, and his answer to the Bill is exhibited (*No. 31*). For Shakespeare's purchase of the lease of the tithes see Nos. 10 and 11.

The Bill is addressed "To the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Ellesmere, Lord Chauncellour of England," reciting seisin of the College of Stratford-upon-Avon and chapter of greater and

lesser tithes and their demise of same to William Barker for 92 years from September 29th, 1543, and their devolution upon John Barker and his (Barker's) conveyance to Sir John Huband, Knt. reserving a yearly rent of £27 13s. 4d. with power of re-entry by Barker or his executor William Barker in the event of non-payment of the said rent within 40 days: reciting also that Richard Lane had an interest in the greater tithes of the yearly value of £30 and Thomas Greene an interest in one messuage of the annual value of £3 and William Shakespeare an interest in the greater and lesser tithes aforesaid in Old Stratford Bishopston and Welcombe of the yearly value of £60 and reciting the various estates and interests in the said demise of numerous other persons, including Lord Carew of Clopton, and that each of these persons ought to pay according to his proportions a certain amount to the executors of the said John Barker in respect of the said sum of £27 13s. 4d., and complaining that the said several persons omitted to pay their said just proportions excepting certain few among whom is W<sup>m</sup> Shakespeare and in consequence of their refusal to pay the estates of all are in danger of forfeiture to the executors of John Barker to avoid which Shakespeare and others have paid the various amounts chargeable to the defaulting persons. Prayer that said Lord Carew and other defaulters be summoned to appear together with all other the said defaulting persons under subpœna to make answer as to the said premises to set forth the yearly values of their several estates and interests and for a Commission to sit and examine witnesses thereon to ascertain how much each ought to pay towards the residue of the said yearly rent of £27 13s. 4d., and for an order accordingly.

Endorsed:—Lane, Greene et Shakespere contra W. Combe et alios respondentes.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 25-31.*

(*Corp. Misc. Doc. ii, 11.*)

## 31. SHAKESPEARE AND THE TITHES, 1610/1.

"The answer of William Combe one of the defendants to the Bill of Complaint of Richard Lane and others, complainants." (*See No. 30*). Sworn 13 Feb. 1610/1.

Reciting that Anthony Barker and Giles Coventry (late sub-wardens of the dissolved college of Stratford-upon-Avon) were seised in right of said college of certain messuages lands tenements and hereditaments at Stratford and in the tithes and tenths of corn grain and hay and tithes of wool and lamb and other small tithes. And being so seised they by Indenture dated about September 1544 demised said tithes and tenths to William Barker in the Bill mentioned for term of 92 years to which Indenture said Defendant refers and that said term of years ultimately devolved by right upon John Barker or some other of name of Barker to whom was thereby reserved a yearly rent of £27 13s. 4d. in the Bill mentioned which sum of £27 13s. 4d. said Defendant considers ought to be paid yearly by all the parties in the Bill mentioned Complainants and Defendants according to their several shares in the said messuages tithes and premises as aforesaid Defendant admits that he holds for years yet to come as executor to his late father Thomas Combe one moiety of the tithe of corn and grain within old Stratford Bishopton and Welcombe in the Bill mentioned and a moiety of divers other tithes as also mentioned toward which Defendant pays yearly the sum of £5 and for divers other tithes he is willing to pay the yearly sum of 6s. 8d. towards the said £27 13s. 4d. which he thinks the Complainants are willing to accept and therefore prays that if the Court shall order him to pay said 6s. 8d. likewise the said Complainants and each and all of the other parties in the said Bill mentioned shall also be ordered to contribute rateably according to their respective shares and interest towards the said yearly rent of £27 13s. 4d.

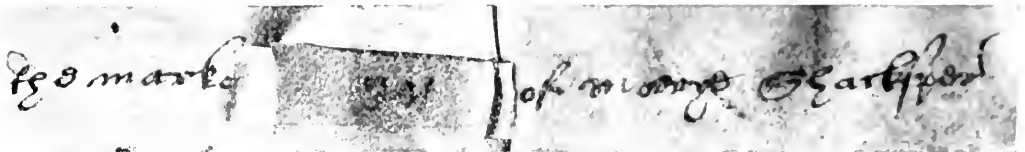
Signed :—George Bonner.

(*Corp. Misc. Docs.*, 9).

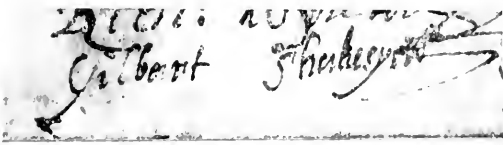
VI.



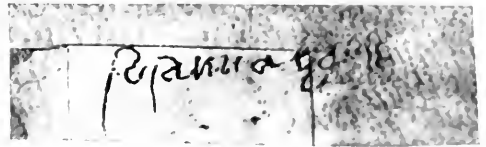
(a) The marke of John Shacksper. (No. 5).



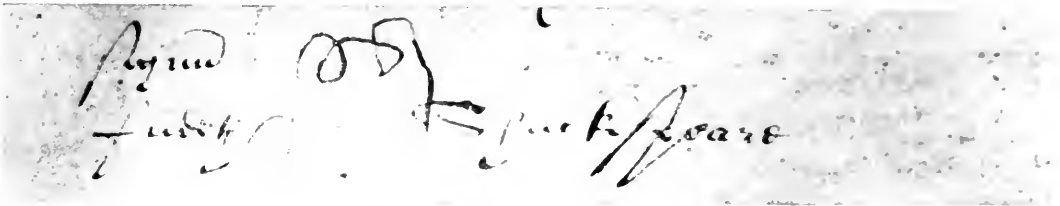
(b) The marke of Marye Shacksper. (No. 5).



(c) Gilbert Shacksper. (No. 33).



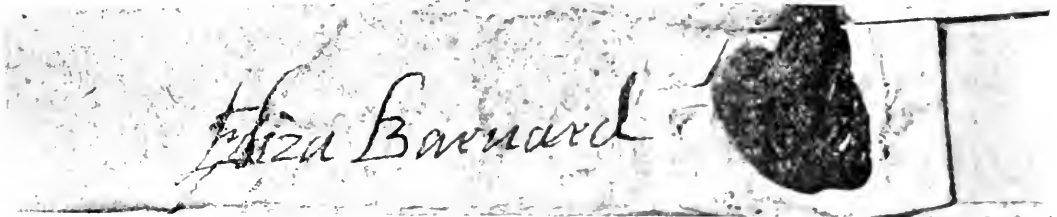
(d) Susanna Hall. (No. 37).



(e) The mark of Judeth Shackspeare. (No. 35).



(f) Elizabeth Nash. (No. 37).



(g) Elizabeth Barnard. (No. 38).

Autographs of Shakespeare's relatives.



## 6. Shakespeare's Friends, Relatives and Descendants.

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### 32. SIGNATURE IN 1598 OF HAMNET SADLER, THE GODFATHER OF THE POET'S SON HAMNET.

Bond from Thomas Blackford, of Butler's Marston, co. Warwick, yeoman, to Daniel Smyth of Stratford, yeoman, in 200 marks to perform covenants in an Indenture of the same date, 10 July 40 Eliz. (1598), respecting the sale of a messuage in Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon,

Signed. Witnesses:—William Courte, scriptor, Hamnet Sadler, Gilbert Charnocke, Richard Niccoles, Hugh Piggin. Small seal.

Early in 1585 twins were born to Shakespeare, a son (Hamnet) and a daughter (Judith); both were baptised on Feb. 2, and were named after their father's friends, Hamnet Sadler and Judith his wife. Hamnet Sadler, a prosperous tradesman, whose brother John was twice bailiff, continued a friend for life, rendering Shakespeare the last service of witnessing his will, under which he received a legacy of 26s. 8d. wherewith to buy a memorial ring.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 85).

### 33. A DEED WITNESSED BY GILBERT SHAKESPEARE, THE POET'S YOUNGEST BROTHER, 1609/10.

Lease from Margery Lorde, widow, and tavern-keeper in Middle-Row, Bridge Street, to Richard Smyth, alias Courte, butcher, one of her sons, for 99 years at a rent of 2d., of a small piece of ground, 3 yards wide, whereon is a "foundation of stone" . . . "placed in a Taverne or sellar which is parcel of the Taverne of the said Margery" in Middle Row, Bridge Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, and supporting "a chymneye now in the hall of the dwellinge house of the saide Richard."

Dated 5 March 1609/10.

Witnesses :—Richard Wylling, Gilbert Shakspere (youngest brother of the poet), and William Bellamy.

Gilbert Shakespeare, the poet's younger brother, was baptised on 13 Oct., 1566. Nothing is certainly known of his history save that on 1 May, 1602, he represented the dramatist at Stratford, when William and John Combe conveyed to the latter 107 acres of arable land (*See No. 8*), and that on 5 March, 1609/10 he signed his name as a witness to the deed described above. (*Plate VI, c*).

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 31).

34. CONVEYANCE OF A MESSUAGE AND LAND IN SHOTTERY TO BARTHOLOMEW, BROTHER OF ANNE HATHAWAY, SHAKESPEARE'S WIFE, 1610.

Deed of Feoffment by William Whitmore, of London, Esq., and John Randoll, of Preston Bagot, co. Warw., gent., to Bartholomew Hathaway, of Shottery, husbandman, of land, etc., in Shottery in his own tenure and parcel of the Manor of Old Stratford, viz.: a messuage and yard-land sometime in the tenure of Thomas Perkins, a messuage and yard-land called Howlands, a toft and half yard-land called Hewlyn's and three closes called Howland's, Hewlyn's, and Palmer's, with common of pasture in Shottery, to hold the same at a yearly rent of 33s. 4d.

Dated 1 April, 1610.

Signed: with seals. Witnessed by Richard Cockes, Francis Collyns, Peter Roswell, John Roswell.

The Hathaways had long been copyholders at Shottery, but it was not until 1610 that the Hathaways became the owners of the estate, Bartholomew purchasing it in that year, subject to a chief-rent of 33s. 4d., from William Whitmore and John Randoll, to whom the Manor of Old Stratford had been granted by the Crown by letters-patent of 7 James I. Upon the death of Bartholomew Hathaway in Oct., 1624, the Shottery property that



he had acquired in 1610 came, under the terms of his will, into the hands of his son John, and although there was more than one partial alienation of the estate in the eighteenth century, a portion of it, including the house now known as Anne Hathaway's Cottage, remained in the possession of the family until 1838.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 86).

35. MARK OF SHAKESPEARE'S YOUNGER DAUGHTER JUDITH, 1611.

Deed of Sale by Elizabeth Quayney, of Stratford-upon-Avon, widow (daughter and sole heir of Tho. Phelippes, mercer, son and heir of William Phelippes) and Adrian Quayney her son and heir, to William Mountford, of Stratford, wheelwright, for £131, of a messuage in Woode Street, in the tenure of the said William Mountford and late in the tenure of Margery Lord, widow of Ralph Lord. Dated 4 Dec., 9 James I (1611).

Mark of Eliz. Quayney and signature of Adrian Quayney; with seals.

Attached in a power of Attorney to Edm. Rawlyns, gent., to give seisin.

Witnesses :—Tho. Greene, Letice Greene, Edm. Rawlyns, and Judeth Shackespeare (mark of J.S.)

With note of seisin, signed by Edm. Rawlyns, Antonie Smithe and others.

The vendor, Elizabeth Quiney, was widow of Richard Quiney, Shakespeare's friend and correspondent (see No. 19), and her younger son Thomas Quiney married on 10 Feb., 1615/6, Judith Shakespeare, the dramatist's younger daughter, who witnessed this deed of sale. (*Plate VI*, c).

Judith outlived her husband, sons, and sister, dying at Stratford on February 9, 1661/2, in her seventy-seventh year.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 91).

36. SIGNATURE OF SHAKESPEARE'S ELDER DAUGHTER, MRS.  
 SUSANNA HALL.—A SETTLEMENT OF SHAKESPEARE'S  
 ESTATES, 1639.

Indenture tripartite, whereby Susannah Hall, of Stratford-upon-Avon, widow, Thomas Nash, of Stratford, Esqre., and Elizabeth, his wife, covenant to levy to George Nash, of Southwark, gent., and Edmund Rawlings, of Stratford, gent., a fine of a messuage in Blackffriers, London, "neare the Wardrobe," now or late in the tenure of . . . Dickes, cordiner, and heretofore in that of John Robinson; a messuage in Acton, co. Middlesex, in the tenure of . . . Leerewood; a capital messuage in Stratford-upon-Avon called the New Place; two messuages in Stratford in Henley Street, in the tenure of Jane Hiccox and Johan Harte, widows; and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands of arable meadow and pasture in Stratford-upon-Avon, Old Stratford, Bishopton, and Welcombe, with all other lands, etc., in the same, heretofore the inheritance of William Shakespeare, gent., late father of the said Susan; such fine to be to the intent that the said George Nash and Edmund Rawlings shall suffer a common Recovery to be had of the same by George Townesend and John Stephens, of Staple Inn, co. Midd., to the users as follows, viz., as regards the messuage at Acton to the use of Thomas Nash and Elizabeth, his wife, for life, with remainder to the heirs of their bodies, and in default to Thomas Nash his heirs and assigns, and as regards all other the premises to the use of Susan Hall for life, with remainder to Thomas Nash and Elizabeth, his wife, for life, with remainder as before. Dated 27 May, 15 Chas. I, 1639.

Signed by Geo. Nashe, Edm. Rawlings, Susanna Hall, Geo. Townesend and John Stephens.

With five seals, that of Susanna Hall bearing the arms:—*three talbots' heads erased*, impaling the arms of Shakespeare.

Mrs. Susannah Hall, Shakespeare's elder daughter, inherited under his will, his real estate. The messuage at Acton was the bequest of her husband Dr. John Hall, who died on 25 Nov.,

1635. Mrs. Hall died at New Place on 11 July, 1649, and her property passed to her daughter and only child, Elizabeth, whose first husband, Thomas Nash, died on 4 April, 1647, and who married on 5 June, 1649, John (afterwards Sir John) Bernard or Barnard, of Abington, Northamptonshire.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, 121).

37. SIGNATURE OF SHAKESPEARE'S ELDER DAUGHTER, MRS. SUSANNA HALL, AND OF HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER, MRS. ELIZBAETH NASH.—A DECLARATION OF USES RELATING TO NEW PLACE, ETC., 1647.

Indenture tripartite covenanting that, whereas Susan Hall [Shakespeare's eldest daughter] and Elizabeth Nash [Mrs. Hall's daughter and Shakespeare's grand-daughter], both of Stratford-upon-Avon, widows, in Easter term preceding levied two fines of a messuage in Blackfriars, London, "neere the Wardrope;" a messuage in Stratford-upon-Avon called the New Place, a messuage in the same town, in Henley Street called the Maidenhead now or late in the tenure of John Rutter; another messuage adjoining, now or late in the tenure of Thomas Hart,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands in Stratford, Old Stratford, Bishopton and Welcome, and all other lands, etc., in the same heretofore the inheritance of William Shakespeare, gent., father of the said Susan Hall, to Richard Lane and William Smith, the intent of such two fines is that the said Richard Lane and Will. Smith shall suffer a recovery of the premises to be prosecuted by Will. Hathaway of Weston-upon-Avon, yeoman, and Tho. Hathaway, of Stratford, joiner, to enure to the use of the said Susan Hall for her life, with remainder to the use of the said Elizabeth Nash and the heirs of her body and in default to the use of her right heirs for ever.

Dated 2 June, 23 Chas. I (1647).

Signed by Susanna Hall (signet seal), Eliza: Nash (seal of arms), Rich. Lane and Wm. Smith (with seals). (*Plate VI, d, f*).

This resettlement by Mrs. Hall and her daughter Elizabeth of Shakespeare's estate on themselves was rendered necessary by the claim made to it in the will of Thomas Nash, the first husband of Mrs. Hall's daughter and only child. Nash had died on 4 April, 1647.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, 122).

38. SIGNATURE OF SHAKESPEARE'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, MRS. ELIZABETH BARNARD, FORMERLY MRS. ELIZABETH NASH.—A DISPOSITION OF NEW PLACE AND OTHER ESTATES OF SHAKESPEARE MADE BY HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER, ELIZABETH BARNARD, IN 1653.

Deed-poll of Elizabeth, wife of John Barnard, Esq., assigning to Henry Smith, of Stratford, gent., and Job Dighton, of the Middle Temple, London, esq., a messuage in Stratford called the New place, together with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands, arable, meadow and pasture in Stratford, Welcombe and Bishopton "sometimes the inheritance of William Shackspeare, gent., my grandfather," upon trust, after the death of the said John Barnard and herself without heirs of her body, to sell the same, the money to be raised thereby to be disposed as she shall appoint. Dated 18 April, 1653.

Signed :—Eliza Barnard, with seal of arms, viz: Barnard impaling Shakespeare. (*Plate VI*, *g*).

Witnesses :—Rich. Lane, Mary Lane, Phillip Scarlett, Eliz. Writon, hir marke.

Job Dighton, one of the trustees of this new settlement of Mrs. Barnard's estate, had lately acquired the estate of the Rainsford family at Clifford Chambers, near Stratford-upon-Avon. He predeceased Mrs. Barnard in 1659.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, 124).

39. WILL OF SHAKESPEARE'S GRAND-DAUGHTER AND HIS  
LAST SURVIVING DESCENDANT, 1669/70.

Will of Dame Elizabeth Barnard, wife of Sir John Barnard, of Abington, co. Northampton (and grand-daughter of Shakespeare); 29 Jan. 1669/70. Probate Copy, much defaced by damp.

By her will Lady Barnard gave many proofs of her affection for the kindred both of her grandfather the dramatist and of his wife, her maternal grandmother. She left £40 apiece to Rose, Elizabeth and Susanna Hathaway, and £50 apiece to Judith Hathaway and to her sister Joan, wife of Edward Kent. All five ladies were daughters of Thomas Hathaway, of the family of the poet's wife. The two houses in Henley Street, one of which was her grandfather's Birthplace, the testatrix bestowed on her cousin, Thomas Hart, grandson of the dramatist's sister Joan. Mrs. Joan Hart, Shakespeare's widowed sister, had lived there with her family till her death in 1646, and Thomas Hart, her son, had since continued the tenancy by Lady Barnard's favour.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1110, vol. ii, pp. 62-3.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 90).*

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APPENDIX  
OF SHAKESPEAREAN DOCUMENTS  
IN FACSIMILE  
BELONGING TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE.

## Appendix 1.

### Facsimiles of Shakespearean Documents exhibited in Shakespeare's Birthplace.

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#### 40. SHAKESPEARE'S MARRIAGE LICENCE BOND.

In this deed, of which the original document is in the Diocesan Registry, Worcester, Fulk Sandels and John Richardson, husbandmen of Stratford, bind themselves in the bishop's consistory court, on November 28, 1582, in a surety of £40 to free the bishop of all liability should a lawful impediment—'by reason of any pre-contract' [i.e. with a third party] or consanguinity—be subsequently disclosed to imperil the validity of the marriage, then in contemplation, of William Shakespeare with Anne Hathaway. On the assumption that no such impediment was known to exist, and provided that Anne obtained the consent of her friends, the marriage might proceed 'with once asking of the banns of matrimony betwene them.' There is no known documentary record of Shakespeare's marriage extant.

*(Birthplace Mus., 119).*

#### 41. SHAKESPEARE'S ARMORIAL BEARINGS.

Framed facsimiles of entries in the Heralds' College as to the assignment of arms to the dramatist's father, John Shakespeare, of Stratford-upon-Avon, in 1596-1599, by Sir William Dethick (Garter King of Arms).

The documents, of which facsimiles are exhibited, are dispersed through various volumes of evidences in the Heralds' College, in the city of London. Though in all the papers John Shakespeare, the poet's father, is represented as the applicant for a grant of arms, there is little doubt that the poet was personally acting throughout the transactions in his father's name.



The documents show that on 26 October, 1596, Sir William Dethick, Garter King of Arms, drafted a grant to John Shakespeare, of a shield, which was thus described: "Gold, on a bend sable, a spear of the first, and for his crest or cognizance a falcon, his wings displayed argent, standing on a wreath of his colours, supporting a spear gold steeled as aforesaid."

A second copy of this draft was made with a few verbal alterations. The draft of 1596 was however not fully executed. In 1599 a fresh application was made to the Heralds' College for a "recognition" or "exemplification" of John Shakespeare's coat of arms, together with a request for permission to impale the arms of the Ardens, the family of the poet's mother.

The desired "exemplification" of John Shakespeare's coat was granted jointly by Sir William Dethick, Garter King, and William Camden, the great Elizabethan antiquary, who had become Clarenceux King of Arms in 1597. With regard to the impalement of the mother's arms the Heralds, after tricking those of the great Warwickshire family of the Ardens of Park Hall, substituting the arms of the Arden family of Albanley, Cheshire. As a matter of fact, no Arden arms were adopted by the poet or members of his family. The Shakespeare arms alone are displayed on the poet's monument in the Church of Stratford-upon-Avon, and they figure without any indication of the Arden arms, in the heraldic emblems used by the poet's daughters.

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 26).*

#### 42. PERFORMANCES OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS AT COURT.

These facsimiles present a contemporary list of plays, including seven by Shakespeare, which were performed at Court before King James I at Whitehall, in the winter of 1604/5. The list appears on pages 3-4 of a manuscript volume which is now preserved at the Public Record Office, and is entitled:—

"The Reuells Booke.

Ano. 1605.

The Accompte of the Office of the Reueles of this whole yeres Charge in Ano. 1604, Untell the last of Octobar 1605." This manuscript list was discovered "under the vaults of Somerset House" by Peter Cunningham, a clerk in the Audit Office and one of the founders of the Shakespeare Society, and was first published by him in his "Extracts from accounts of the Revels at Court," 1842.

Subsequently the manuscript was, on insufficient grounds, denounced as a forgery.

Mr. Ernest Law, with the aid of other experts, proved conclusively in 1911 that the manuscript is authentic, and that the suspicions which have attached to it are unfounded. The list ranks with the most important of all contemporary references to the performances of Shakespeare's plays at Court in his lifetime. The list includes the earliest known performances of *Othello* and *Measure for Measure*. (*For the Revels Book of 1611-12, see* *N<sup>o.</sup> 59*).

The spelling of the poet's name—Shaxberd—is paralleled by the forms Shaxber and Shaxbeer which both figure in the records of Stratford-upon-Avon.

43. SHAKESPEARE'S DEPOSITIONS IN THE SUIT OF BELLOTT  
*versus* MOUNTJOY, WITH HIS AUTOGRAPH SIGNATURE  
DATED 11 MAY, 1612.

This document, the original of which was discovered by Dr. C. W. Wallace in the Public Record Office in 1910, consists of a deposition made by Shakespeare in answer to five interrogatories and signed by him on 11 May, 1612.

The suit to which the deposition belongs was brought in the Court of Requests in 1612 by one Stephen Bellott against his father-in-law, one Christopher Mountjoy, for the purpose of compelling the defendant Mountjoy to carry out certain contracts into which he was alleged to have entered on the occasion of the marriage of the plaintiff Bellott with his daughter in 1604.

Evidence in the suit shows that Shakespeare had lodged in 1604 in the house of the defendant Mounjoy, a tiremaker (i.e., cap-and-wig-maker), carrying on business in Silver Street, Wood Street, in the City of London. The depositions of Shakespeare and the other witnesses with a full account of the litigation were printed by Dr. Wallace in an article entitled "New Shakespeare Discoveries," in *Harper's Magazine* for March, 1910. The original of Shakespeare's deposition is now permanently exhibited in the Museum of the Public Record Office, London.

The text of Shakespeare's deposition is in two handwritings, both of lawyer's clerks. Shakespeare's autograph signature is penned hastily, and gives his surname in the abbreviated form, Will<sup>m</sup> Shak'p'.

This is the sixth autograph signature of Shakespeare that is known to be extant, and is the earliest in point of date. Of the five signatures previously known, one, dated 10 March, 1612/3—some ten months later than the present document—is appended to the purchase deed (now preserved in the Guildhall Library, London), of a house which the dramatist acquired in Blackfriars (*See No. 44*), the second, dated 11 March, 1612-3, is appended to a deed (now in the British Museum) mortgaging the house in Blackfriars (*See No. 45*). Three other signatures, all dated March 25, 1616, are severally appended to the three sheets of Shakespeare's Will, now at Somerset House, London (*See No. 47*).

#### 44. SHAKESPEARE'S BLACKFRIARS ESTATE.

Facsimile of conveyance of the Blackfriars Estate from "Henry Walker citizen and minstrell of London" to "William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon in the Countie of Warwick gentleman." 10 March, 1612/13, bearing Shakespeare's autograph signature.

Shakespeare's last investment in real estate was the purchase of a house, with a yard attached, which was situated within six hundred feet of the Blackfriars theatre. The former owner, Henry Walker, a musician, had bought the property for £100 in 1604 of

one Matthew Bacon, a student of Gray's Inn. Shakespeare in 1613 agreed to pay Walker £140. The copy of the indenture held by the vendor from which this facsimile is taken is preserved in the Guildhall Library, London.

The opening paragraph and termination of this deed and the full text of its counterpart *are printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 31-4. (See also No. 45 infra).*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 123).*

#### 45. SHAKESPEARE'S BLACKFRIARS ESTATE.

A collotype facsimile of a mortgage by "William Shakespeare, of Stratford-upon-Avon, gentleman," and others, to Henry Walker, citizen, of London, of a dwelling-house within the precincts of "the late Black Friars." Dated 11th March, 10 Jas. I (1612/3), bearing Shakespeare's autograph signature.

On March 11, 1612/13, the day following the conveyance of the property described in the previous entry (*No. 44*) Shakespeare executed this other deed (now in the British Museum), which stipulated that £60 of the purchase money was to remain on mortgage, with Henry Walker, the former owner, until the following Michaelmas.

In both purchase-deed and mortgage-deed Shakespeare's signature was witnessed by (among others) Henry Lawrence, 'servant' or clerk to Robert Andrewes, the scrivener, who drew the deeds, and Lawrence's seal, bearing his initials 'H.L.', was stamped in each case on the parchment tag, across the head of which Shakespeare signed his name.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 34-6.*

*(Birthplace Mus., No. 118).*

## 46. SHAKESPEARE AND THE EARL OF RUTLAND'S 'IMPRESA.'

Three photographs of an entry concerning Shakespeare in an account book of the household expenses at Belvoir Castle, of the Earl of Rutland, 1613.

The entry shows that "Mr. Shakespeare" and "Richard Burbadge" the actor were, on 31 March, 1613, each paid the sum of 44 shillings by the Earl of Rutland's steward for services rendered in devising and making an "impresa," or semi-heraldic pictorial badge with motto, which they had been commissioned to devise for the decoration of the Earl's shield and equipment at the spectacular tournament at Whitehall on 24 March of that year.

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 314).

## 47. SHAKESPEARE'S WILL, WITH THREE AUTOGRAPH SIGNATURES OF THE DRAMATIST.

A photo-lithographic facsimile of the three sheets of Shakespeare's will each of which bears his autograph.

The will, which is preserved in Somerset House, was drafted before 25 Jan., 1615/6; it is in the handwriting of Francis Collins, a lawyer, of Warwick, and for a short time town clerk of Stratford. The instrument received many interlineations and erasures before it was signed on the 25th of the ensuing March. The five witnesses to the will were Francis Collins, Julius Shaw, Hamnet Sadler, Robert Whatcote and John Robinson, all of whom were local friends of about the testator's own age, filling responsible positions in the town.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, pp. 169-172).*

(*Birthplace Mus.*, No. 120).

## Appendix 2.

### Facsimiles in the Library of Shakespeare's Birthplace of Shakespearean Documents preserved in the Public Record Office.

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48. PAYMENT TO SHAKESPEARE AND HIS COLLEAGUES, KEMPE  
AND BURBAGE, FOR PERFORMING, AT THE END OF  
DECEMBER, 1594, BEFORE QUEEN ELIZABETH AT  
GREENWICH.

This entry figures in the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Royal Chamber which are the chief available records of the acting companies' performances at Court. It runs as follows:—"to William Kempe, William Shakespeare & Richarde Burbage, servauntes to the Lord Chamberleyne, vpon the Councelles warrant dated at Whitehall xv<sup>to</sup> Marcij, 1594, for twoe seuerall Comedies or Enterludes shewed by them before her Majestie in Christmas tyme laste paste, viz. vpon St. Stephens daye & Innocentes daye xiiij<sup>li</sup>. vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>. and by waye of her Majesties rewarde vj<sup>li</sup>. xiiij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>. in all xx<sup>li</sup>."

*(Pipe Office ; Declared Accounts, 542, f. 207b.)*

49. SHAKESPEARE'S STRATFORD ESTATE.

Foot of the Fine that was levied when Shakespeare purchased the estate of New Place from William Underhill in 1597. (*See No. 7*).

*(Feet of Fines, Warwick, East, 39 Eliz. skin. 12).*

50. SHAKESPEARE AND THE SUBSIDIES, 1596.

Affidavit by collectors of the last three subsidies granted to the Crown in 1592-3.

The affidavit contains the names of those who, having died, or left the Wards, e.g. of Bishopsgate, had failed to pay their contributions. The name of William Shakespeare of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, figures in this list of defaulters in respect of 5s. due in 1596, upon goods valued at £5.

(*Lay Subsidies, 146/354*).

#### 51. SHAKESPEARE AND THE SUBSIDIES, 1598.

The account of the collectors of several Wards of the first of three subsidies granted in 1596-7.

The name of William Shakespeare, of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, appears as a defaulter in respect of 13s. 4d., due in 1598. upon goods valued at £5.

(*Lay Subsidies, 146/369*).

#### 52. SHAKESPEARE AND THE SUBSIDIES, 1598.

Enrolment of the accounts of the collectors of the subsidy due in 1598, giving the names of Shakespeare and others who had not paid what was due from them.

(*Exchequer, Enrolled Subsidy Accounts, No. 56*).

#### 53. SHAKESPEARE AND THE SUBSIDIES, 1598.

Further pursuit of the defaulter William Shakespeare, in respect of 13s. 4d., due on the subsidy of 1596-7.

(*Pipe Roll, 40 Eliz., m. Residuum, London*).

#### 54. SHAKESPEARE AND THE SUBSIDIES, 1598.

According to this document, authorization for the collection of the 13s. 4d. due from William Shakespeare (*No. 51*) was given by the Bishop of Winchester, who owned the district in Southwark known as the Clink, to which Shakespeare had apparently removed from Bishopsgate late in 1596.

The omission of Shakespeare's name from subsequent lists of defaulters on account of the arrears in question implies that he duly paid his debt.

(*Pipe Roll, 41 Eliz., m. Residuum, Sussex*).

55. THE ROYAL PATENT TO SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY OF ACTORS.

The 'Signet Bill,' May 17th, 1603, authorising the 'Privy Seal Bill,' which was the warrant to the Lord Chancellor to grant letters patent, May 18th, giving general permission to Shakespeare and his associates, "to vse and exercise the Arte and facultie of playing Comedies, Tragedies, Histories, Enterludes, Moralles, Pastoralles, Stage plaies & such other like as they haue already studied or heerafter shall vse or studie aswell for the recreation of our loving subiects as for our solace and pleasure when we shall thinke good to see them during our pleasure. And the said Comedies . . . & such like to shew and exercise publiquely to their best Commoditie, when the infection of the plague shall decrease, as well w<sup>th</sup>in their now vsuall howse called the Glöbe . . . as also w<sup>th</sup>in any towne Halles or Mouthalls or other convenient places [within the realm]."

The names of His Majesty's 'servants' to whom the licence was granted are "Lawrence fletcher, William Shakespeare, Richard Burbage, Augustine Phillippes, John Hemminges, Henry Condell, William Sly, Robt. Armyne, Richard Cowlye."

(*Public Record Office Museum, Pedestal No. 57*).

56. THE ROYAL PATENT TO SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY OF ACTORS.

Enrolment of letters patent May 19th, 1603, granted to Shakespeare and his associates, giving general permission to perform plays, &c. This enrolment is often confused with the Signet Bill and with the Privy Seal Bill. The letters patent alone conferred legal efficacy. (*See No. 55 supra*).

(*Patent Rolls; 1 Jas. I, Part 2, m. 4*).



## 57. SHAKESPEARE AND THE ROYAL PROGRESS OF JAMES I, 1604.

Grant to nine members of the King's Company of Players, the list of whose names is headed by that of Shakespeare, of four and a half yards of 'Skarlet,' 'Red cloth' or 'Damask' apiece, in view of the coronation-procession of King James I through London on 15 March, 1603/4.

(*Book 58a, L.C. ix, 4 (5), ff. 78-79*).

## 58. SHAKESPEARE'S STRATFORD ESTATE.

Foot of fine of the sale in 1610 by William and John Combe to William Shakespeare of 107 acres of land and 20 acres of pasture in Old Stratford and in Stratford for £100.

The conveyance of the 107 acres had been executed between the same parties in 1602 (*See No. 8*). This fine attests an addition of 20 acres to Shakespeare's estate.

*Printed in Halliwell-Phillipps' "Outlines," 6th ed., 1886, vol. ii, p. 25.*

(*Feet of Fines, Warwick, Trin., 8 Jas. I, 1610, skin 15*).

## 59. PERFORMANCES OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS AT COURT.

Account-book of the Master of the Revels, 1611-2, recording performances before the Court of King James I of 'The Tempest' and 'The Winter's Tale.' (*See the account of the Revels Book of 1604-5, No. 42*).

(*Audit Office; Accounts Various, Bundle 1, 214, No. 14*).

## 60. SHAKESPEARE'S BLACKFRIARS ESTATE.

Enrolment dated March 11th, 1612/3, of the conveyance on the previous day of the house in Blackfriars from Henry Walker

to William Shakespeare. For facsimiles of the counterpart of the conveyance, bearing Shakespeare's signature, and of the mortgage of the property on the day following the purchase (*See Nos. 44 and 45*).

(*Close Rolls; 11 Jas. I, Part 31, No. 45*).

#### 61. SHAKESPEARE'S BLACKFRIARS ESTATE.

The Bill of Complaint, Answer of defendant, and Decree of the Court in an action brought on 26 April, 1615, by 'Willyam Shakespere, gent,' jointly with six fellow complainants to compel Matthew Bacon of Gray's Inn, a former owner of Shakespeare's Blackfriars house, to deliver up to them a number of 'letters patent, deeds, evidences, charters and writings,' which, it was alleged, were wrongfully detained by him and concerned their title to various houses and lands in the Blackfriars. On May 15 Bacon filed his answer to the bill of complaint, and a week later the Court of Chancery decreed the surrender of the papers to the petitioners. (*See also Nos. 44, 45 and 60*).

(*Chancery Bills and Answers; Jas. I, B, 11, No. 9*).

#### 62. SHAKESPEARE'S SHARES IN THE GLOBE THEATRE.

Suit brought in Feb. 1615/6 by Thomasina Ostler, widow, against her father John Heminges, for £600 damages for wrongful detention of dividends accruing to her from her late husband's shares in the Globe Theatre. In this document mention is made of the shares which Shakespeare held in the Globe Theatre, and much other interesting matter is given concerning the history of the Globe and its site.

(*Coram Rege, 1454, 13 Jas. I, Hill., m. 692, 1, 19*).

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# The Trustees & Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace, April, 1916.

*Incorporated by Act of 54 and 55 Vict., cap. iii., 1891.*

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